



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

CN# 20-05

MEMORANDUM

To: School Health & Nutrition Program Sponsors

From: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health & Nutrition Unit

Holly Mueller, Program Director
Arizona Department of Education, School Health & Nutrition Programs

Date: October 15, 2004

RE: Reauthorization 2004 – Irradiation Requirements

Irradiation has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration as one of the several tools that can be used to help protect consumers from foodborne illness.

USDA will ensure that:

- Irradiated commodities are made available only at the request of the States and the local education agency.
- Reimbursements to schools for such product are equal to reimbursements for non-irradiated products. (In other words, both the non-commodity reimbursement rate as well as the commodity entitlement rate will remain the same. Ordering irradiated beef will have no effect on your reimbursement or entitlement. However, this does not mean that prices for irradiated product will be the same as for non-irradiated product. Prices are dictated by competitive bidding among vendors.)
- States and local education agencies (LEA) receive factual information on the science and evidence of irradiation technology including a notice that irradiation is not a substitute for safe food handling techniques.
- States and LEAs are given model procedures on how to provide irradiation information to LEAs, parents, and students. This information can be found at: www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/foodsafety/irrad-edmaterials.htm.

USDA, States and schools must ensure that:

- Irradiated commodities are clearly labels with the radura symbol or another prominently displayed printed notice of irradiation.
- Irradiated food products are not commingled in containers with non-irradiated foods.

In addition, schools are also encouraged to offer non-irradiated alternatives when irradiated commodities are offered.

We highly recommend that schools which choose to serve irradiated USDA commodity product inform parents, students, and others in the school community of that fact and make it clear that they have a choice on whether or not to consume it. States and schools receiving irradiated product are encouraged to conduct informational and educational activities that provide science-based information about irradiation so that informed decisions can be made about its consumption.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this memo, please contact your assigned School Health & Nutrition Program Specialist.

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